




REGIONAL FUGITIVE TASK FORCES

CATCH OF THE WEEK

Week of January 24th, 2005

Taking the Worst of the Worst Off the Streets

<p>New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force</p> <p>On January 15, 2005, a fight that took place in a bar in Elizabeth, New Jersey resulted in the deaths of two male victims. A 26-year-old male was fatally stabbed in the chest inside the bar and a 28-year-old male was stabbed in the neck in the parking lot while trying to flee his attackers. The Union County, New Jersey, Prosecutor’s Office issued warrants for brothers, Luis and Steven Melendez, for double homicide. NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force investigators, with assistance from the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG), developed information that Steven Melendez was in an apartment building in the Bronx, New York. Task Force members, along with Deputy U.S. Marshals from the District of New Jersey, and TOG arrested Steven Melendez without incident on January 16, 2005. The investigation for Luis Melendez continued until Luis surrendered to the Elizabeth, New Jersey, Police on January 27, 2005.</p>	<div>  <p>Steven Melendez</p> </div> <div>  <p>Luis Melendez</p> <p>Wanted for Double Homicide</p> </div>
<p>Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force</p> <p>In December 2003, Michael Hill was accused of murdering a rival drug dealer over control of a street corner in Chicago, Illinois. According to investigating detectives, Hill “inherited” this drug spot from another individual serving time in an Illinois penitentiary. When the victim began selling narcotics on this corner, Hill warned him several times to stop. This resulted in Hill shooting the victim in the head and chest. In January 2005, Hill was charged with 1st degree murder. Information developed by Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force investigators indicated that the subject was hiding out in Dekalb, Illinois. A ruse conducted by Task Force members culminated in the subject’s arrest after he was observed exiting the location in Dekalb.</p>	<div>  <p>Michael Hill</p> <p>Wanted for Homicide</p> </div>

Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force

On January 21, 2005, a victim was kidnapped from his home in Gwinnett County, Georgia, by three attackers who arrived at the home in a white minivan. Two of the men forced the victim into his car, at which time both vehicles sped from the home. A short time later, investigators from the Gwinnett Police Department located the victim's car. After four days, neither investigators from the Gwinnett Police Department nor the Federal Bureau of Investigation were able to identify or locate any of the attackers. During that time, the kidnapers repeatedly contacted the victim's family demanding ransom.

On January 25, 2005, investigators from the Gwinnett County Police Department contacted investigators from the Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force (SERFTF) and requested assistance with their case. Inspectors from the SERFTF and the U.S. Marshals Technical Operations Group (TOG) immediately began investigating leads in the case, and by mid-morning the next day, had identified two of the believed kidnapers, Hoa Quoc Ta and Trinh Dung. One of the fugitives, Dung, was already wanted by the USMS for a violation of supervised release on a weapons charge. SERFTF investigators also located the van used in the kidnapping and arranged for it to be turned over to the FBI for processing.

During the investigation, SERFTF and TOG investigators were able to track the kidnapers from metro Atlanta, across the country to Portland, Oregon. Once investigators were able to positively determine that the kidnapers were in Portland, they contacted USMS investigators from the District of Oregon and TOG. In turn, those investigators coordinated their investigation with the FBI, Portland Police Department, and the Gresham Police Department. Surveillance was established on locations developed by both Georgia and Oregon USMS investigators. After working through the night, investigators were able to locate two of the kidnapers and the victim at a hotel in east Portland. The first kidnaper, Dung, was arrested as he left the hotel and walked across the street to a gas station. Later, the second kidnaper, Ta, was arrested as he left the target hotel room with the victim. The victim was rescued unharmed.

The kidnapers are believed to have ties to Vietnamese organized crime groups. Information was developed during the USMS investigation that will aid the FBI and the Gwinnett Police Department in identifying and locating the third attacker.



Hoa Quoc Ta



Trinh Dung

**Wanted for
Kidnapping**

Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force

Mario Madrigal Miranda was arrested on January 30, 2005 in San Diego, California by members of the San Diego Division of the Pacific Southwest Regional Fugitive Task Force (PSWRFTF) and detectives from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). Miranda was wanted by the LASD for murder in connection with a December 1, 2004, homicide that occurred in South El Monte, California. The charges against Miranda allege that he and a second individual were hired to abduct and kill the victim as a result of narcotics transactions. They allegedly kidnapped the victim when he showed up to conduct a drug transaction, executed him, and dumped his body on the side of the road. On the evening of Sunday, January 30, 2005, LASD and PSWRFTF investigators conducted surveillance of Miranda's mother and sister in the San Ysidro and South San Diego areas. As a result, investigators developed information that indicated that Miranda was located inside an apartment where the mother and sister had been observed. Late that evening, PSWRFTF investigators made a tactical entry into the apartment and arrested Miranda, less than five hours after being contacted for assistance by the Los Angeles Division of the PSWRFTF. A subsequent search of the apartment resulted in the recovery of items of evidentiary value, as well as two pounds of marijuana.



**Mario Madrigal
Miranda**

Wanted for Murder

Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force

In 1989, Rony Dario Hernandez was charged by the Arlington, Virginia, Police Department with drugging a teenage boy and raping him by force. He was released on bond and had been a fugitive for the past 15 years. On January 28, 2005, the Arlington Police Department contacted the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force with information that Hernandez may be residing in Madison, Wisconsin. A lead request was sent to the USMS office in Madison, Wisconsin the same day. USMS and Madison, Wisconsin police officers arrested Hernandez at a Madison apartment later that evening. Earlier in the day, this same group of Wisconsin investigators arrested another DC area fugitive who had eluded capture for over a year.



**Rony Dario
Hernandez**

**Wanted for Forcible
Rape of a Minor**